

List of Claims

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) A method for downloading applications stored in an application database that is coupled to a cellular communication network, said method comprising:

connecting a first mobile terminal with the application database through the cellular communication network, the application database containing at least one application having a selectable lifetime;

choosing an application of the at least one application for downloading to the first mobile terminal;

providing the application database with information identifying a user of the first mobile terminal;

selecting a lifetime for the chosen application, during which lifetime the chosen application is executable;

downloading the chosen application from said application database to the first mobile terminal; and

storing indicia of the selected lifetime for the chosen application and of the information identifying the user, wherein the stored indicia corresponds to the selected lifetime during which the chosen application is further executable at mobile terminals accessible by the user.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of downloading the chosen application is performed over a wireless connection.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the indicia is stored in an application-license database in connection with the application database.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the information identifying the user is based on SIM information.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
receiving in the application database a request from the user for a subsequent downloading of a previously-downloaded application;

determining whether lifetime remains by reference to the stored indicia of the selected lifetime for previously-downloaded application for the user; and

downloading the application a subsequent time, if it is determined that at least a portion of the selected lifetime remains for the requested application.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the request is received from a second mobile terminal.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the subsequent downloading comprises downloading the application to a second mobile terminal.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of refusing the request for subsequent downloading if the determination indicates that lifetime has expired in the stored indicia for said user.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of downloading is performed over a wireless connection.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a period of time measured from a predetermined starting time.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined starting time is the time of downloading the chosen application.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a predetermined number of downloads.

41. (Previously presented) In a communication system having at least one mobile terminal capable of communicating by way of a radio link with network infrastructure, the at least one mobile terminal having memory for at least one application, an improvement of apparatus for downloading an application to the at least one mobile terminal, said apparatus comprising:

an application database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application database containing at least one downloadable application, the application having a selectable lifetime during which the application is permitted to remain executable by an identified user;

a detector coupled to the network infrastructure, the detector for detecting a request containing information identifying a user to download a chosen application of the

at least one application contained at the application database, the detector for obtaining the application from the application database, and for downloading the application to the at least one mobile terminal to be installed thereat;

an application-license database coupled to the network infrastructure, the application-license database for storing the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information; and

a downloading server, the downloading server coupled to the detector, the downloading server coupled to the application database, and the downloading server coupled to the application-license database;

wherein the downloading server is configured to compare the download request to the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information stored in the application-license database for the chosen application, wherein the downloading server downloads said application if the user has application lifetime remaining for the requested application.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said downloadable application is preprogrammed with the selected lifetime, wherein the downloadable application deletes itself from the at least one mobile terminal when the selected lifetime expires.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the selected lifetime expires as a function of a selected number of transactions.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the lifetime expires as a function of a selected time.

45. (Currently amended) A mobile terminal operable in a wireless communication system, said mobile terminal comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU);

a memory unit coupled with the CPU for storing at least one application;

an application requestor coupled with the CPU for generating requests to download a variable-lifetime application from an application database;

a lifetime selector coupled with the CPU for selecting a lifetime applicable to a downloaded application;

a lifetime determiner coupled with the CPU for determining the remaining portion of the lifetime associated with a downloaded application; and

an application disabler coupled with the CPU for disabling an application;

wherein the mobile terminal is operable to receive and store downloaded applications and to permit the downloaded application to be executed at the mobile terminal as long as a portion of the associated lifetime remains.

46. (Previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application disabler disables an application when the associated lifetime has expired.

47. (Previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application disabler deletes an application with lifetime remaining in order to free storage space in the memory unit.

48. (Previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the application requester is operable to request a previously-downloaded application for which at least a portion of the associated lifetime remains.

49. (Previously presented) The mobile terminal of claim 45, wherein the memory unit also stores lifetime indicia associated with downloaded applications.

50. (Currently amended) A server operable in a wireless communication system, said server comprising:

a detector for detecting a request to download an application to a mobile terminal in communication with the wireless communication system;

a lifetime determiner for determining whether the requested application has at least a portion of a previously-selected lifetime available;

an application-database interface for retrieving the application from an application database where the application is stored; and

an application downloader for downloading the application to the mobile terminal;

wherein the application will only be downloaded if the lifetime determiner determines that the requested application has at least a portion of the a previously-selected lifetime available.

51. (Previously presented) The server of claim 50, further comprising a memory unit for storing lifetime indicia.

52. (Previously presented) The server of claim 50, wherein the server is operable to communicate with the mobile terminal via a short-range radio communication.

53. (New) A method comprising steps of:

choosing a first application from a mobile terminal, the first application being one of a plurality of applications; and

receiving the first application via a wireless network, the first application being configured to become unavailable for use on the mobile terminal upon either

expiration of a predetermined time period, or

use of the first application a predetermined number of times.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the wireless network is a cellular communication network.

55. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.

56. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.

57. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising selecting the predetermined time period for the first application.

58. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising selecting the predetermined number of times the first application may be used.

59. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by becoming non-functional.

60. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by automatically deleting at least a portion of itself.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the first application is configured to delete only executable code.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the first application is configured to retain customized settings in the mobile terminal.

63. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
subsequently re-choosing the first application; and

again receiving the first application if time remains in the predetermined time period.

64. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
subsequently re-choosing of the first application; and
again receiving the first application if the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times.

65. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
paying for the first application, wherein the amount of said payment is based on either the predetermined time period or the predetermined number of times.

66. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first application;
subsequently re-choosing the first application;
again receiving the first application if there is time remaining in the predetermined time period; and
making additional payment for said again receiving the first application, wherein the amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the initial payment.

67. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first application;
subsequently re-choosing the first application;

again receiving the first application if the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times; and

making additional payment for said again receiving the first application, wherein the amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the initial payment.

68. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

determining, at each attempt to use the first application, whether time remains in the predetermined time period, and

deleting the first application if time does not remain in the predetermined time period.

69. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

determining, at each attempt to use the first application, whether the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times, and

deleting the first application if the first application has been used the predetermined number of times.

70. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said choosing step comprises selecting a link at a website.

71. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising deleting a pre-existing application to create memory space for the first application.

72. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is a game.
73. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application contains executable digital information.
74. (New) A method comprising steps of:
- choosing a first ringing tone from a mobile terminal, the first ringing tone being one of a plurality of ringing tones; and
- receiving the first ringing tone via a wireless network, the first ringing tone being configured to become unavailable for use on the mobile terminal upon either
- expiration of a predetermined time period, or
- use of the first ringing tone a predetermined number of times.
75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the wireless network is a cellular network.
76. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.
77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.
78. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising selecting the predetermined

time period for the first ringing tone.

79. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising selecting the predetermined number of times the first ringing tone may be used.

80. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
subsequently re-choosing the first ringing tone; and
again receiving the first ringing tone if there is time remaining in the predetermined time period.

81. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
subsequently re-choosing the first ringing tone; and
again receiving the first ringing tone if the first ringing tone has been used less than the predetermined number of times.

82. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
paying for the first ringing tone, wherein the amount of said payment is based on either the predetermined time period or the predetermined number of times.

83. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first ringing tone;
subsequently re-choosing the first ringing tone;
again receiving the first ringing if there is time remaining in the predetermined

time period; and

making additional payment for said again receiving the first ringing tone, wherein the amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the first payment.

84. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:

making an initial payment for the first ringing tone;

subsequently re-choosing the first ringing tone;

again receiving the first ringing tone if the first ringing tone has been used less than the predetermined number of times; and

making additional payment for said again receiving the first ringing tone, wherein the amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the first payment.

85. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said choosing step comprises selecting a link at a website.

86. (New) A mobile terminal, comprising:

a memory; and

a central processing unit (CPU), wherein the mobile terminal is configured to perform steps including

transmitting a choice of a first application, the first application being one of a plurality of applications,

receiving the first application via a wireless network, the first application being configured to become unavailable for use on the mobile terminal upon either

expiration of a predetermined time period, or
use of the first application a predetermined number of times, and
storing the first application in the memory.

87. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the wireless network is a cellular communication network.

88. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.

89. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 88, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.

90. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to transmit a selection of the predetermined time period for the first application.

91. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to transmit a selection of the predetermined number of times the first application may be used.

92. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by becoming non-functional.

93. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by automatically deleting at least a portion of itself.

94. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 93, wherein the first application is configured to delete only executable code.

95. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 93, wherein the first application is configured to retain customized settings in the mobile terminal.

96. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to

transmit a subsequent re-choice of the first application, and

again receive the first application if time remains in the predetermined time period.

97. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to

transmit a subsequent re-choice of the first application; and

again receive the first application if the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times.

98. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to

determine, at each attempt to use the first application, whether time remains in the predetermined time period, and

delete the first application if time does not remain in the predetermined time period.

99. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to

determine, at each attempt to use the first application, whether the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times, and

delete the first application if the first application has been used the predetermined number of times.

100. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein said transmitting a choice comprises transmitting a selection of a link at a website.

101. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the first application is a ringing tone.

102. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the first application is a game.

103. (New) The mobile terminal of claim 86, wherein the first application contains executable digital information.